

Utah State Medical Association

T. C. GIBSON, M. D., Salt Lake City.....President
 W. R. CALDERWOOD, M. D.....President-Elect
 FRANK B. STEELE, M. D., Salt Lake.....Secretary

Editorials by J. U. GIESY, Associate Editor for Utah

IGNORANCE—THE WET NURSE OF THE CULTS

Cultism, like a priestcraft form of religion, depends largely upon ignorance, which engenders a too facile faith. And a too facile faith is practically gullibility. History will record that the cure of ignorance is education. Consequently, in very truth, the cure of cultism lies not in professional ravings, or attempted anti-cult legislation, but within ourselves.

Any man who has worked long over the dissection table, has examined a human spine, has seen how wonderfully it is put together, how by a process of nature's own engineering it is trussed and guyed, will scarcely credit the statement that it is such a loose collection of segments that it is going to slip out of alignment every time its mundane user yields to the impulse of a good round, rousing sneeze. You and I as medical men, then, are immunized by education against the alleged slippery quality of the vertebral segments of the thing on one end of which we sit and upon the other end of which our head rests, but—what of the man in the streets?

To the average man there is a mystical something in the name of doctor, and it matters little to him whether the doctor is an M. D., or a D. C., or what. He is a good deal like a man going into a grocery store and buying a can of peas. Peas is peas, and a doctor is a doctor and supposed to know what he is talking about, and so if the "doctor" tells the poor chap that his vertebrae are wandering around like a lot of badly trained raw recruits who can't keep an alignment, he is prone to believe.

Hence, it is up to us to instruct the man in the streets to a point where, when he hears such a statement, he will recognize it even as we do, as ridiculous. And the ridiculous is a thing at which the average man will laugh.

Much has been done along the lines of education already in health clinics, in radio talks, in lectures. As proof of this it is interesting to note how many, many women now report themselves to their doctor at the first discovery of a tumor in the breast. This is but an illustration, but it can surely be carried into the general medical field. It will take some time, some work. But surely, if in the end, we shall arrive at a point where the public will understand that educated physicians are working not only for a living but for the actual scientific welfare of the race and the individual patient, then all the effort it may require will be well spent. And should such a point be arrived at, then it will be certain that most of the cults will fade away in the light of a lessened ignorance.

Because ignorance and blind faith go hand in hand together. The savage believes in his witch doctor. The ignorant peasant accepts the gospel of

his priest. The ignorant layman takes what the doctor tells him as truth. The child blindly trusts its parent—but with age and education the child begins to ask "why." And so it seems to us that the best weapon to turn against cultism, whose wet nurse is the still enduring ignorance of the masses as applying to true medical science, is to constitute each man himself an apostle and consistently and continually instruct each of his patients to a point where intelligent co-operation shall replace that ignorance. Along such a program the movement for the examination of the apparently well is a step, and a big one, in the right direction. Every convert to such a check-up on his physical condition becomes a potential factor in a wider education of the masses in what the profession today is really seeking to attain. It is a big job, but let us each one get at it. Many hands can make, and long before this have made, light work of jobs as big as this. And to make a false claim appear in the ridiculousness of all its falsity is about the strongest argument against it one can use. This reminds us of a rather gruesome little story told us by a local doctor who was called to a house where a man lay dead, and a member of a certain cult was trying to "adjust" the spine of the corpse! We understand that the family of the deceased no longer have so facile a faith in that particular cult. Our doctor friend did not say whether he found anything wrong with the patient's spine, but he seemed to feel that something had "slipped" even if only the patient himself across the River Styx.

Here, then, is a practical work of both self and racial advantage for every doctor in Utah, or the United States, or the world. Let's go! Ignorance cannot resist a consistently laid down barrage of demonstrable facts.

PLEASE!

Once more as in the past, the editor, now that elections in the component societies of the State Association are over and new secretaries are elected and installed, wishes to appeal to these several gentlemen to cooperate with him in the task of giving the state news a general reporting through the Utah section of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

Once more he wishes to ask them in the most interested spirit to send to his address—Felt building, Salt Lake City—brief reports of their society meetings, and any other items of interest affecting medical activities, either public or personal, in their sections of the state. If they will do this, we can have the best section we have ever had, and we can tell each other what we are doing in our own districts—we can keep in touch.

May we not hope that some or all of the newly elected officers will accept this invitation to cooperate?

Utah Notes (reported by J. U. Giesy, associate editor)
 —Claude Shields, chairman of the scientific committee of the Utah Association for the next annual meeting, has begun work looking to the obtaining of a creditable program. Frank Bartlett of Ogden will visit California with the object of conferring with speakers there and if pos-

sible arranging to gain their attendance at the state meeting. Until it is determined just what arrangements can be made, the council has decided to set no definite date for the meeting, but to be governed largely by the convenience of obtaining the best list of speakers at the most convenient time, based upon their other engagements.

Health talks over the radio as a means of putting the general public in touch with modern medical advances and thereby educating them in the aims and endeavors of the profession, are proving more and more popular as time goes on. The program as planned will be continued.

The excavation for the new Medical Arts building has been completed and work is to be started as soon as contracts are let, which we understand will be about the first of February. The building will be ten stories in height and constructed to fill the needs of the medical and dental professions in every sense. There will be an auditorium open to all professional societies and a reference library. As an indication that this building will fill a long felt want, every foot of floor space is already engaged by local medicos and dentists.

During December the Weber County Society held its annual banquet and election, to which officers of the State Association were bidden as honorary guests. President Gibson of the State Association, F. Steele, secretary; Calderwood and Lecompte attended. T. B. Beatty, secretary of the State Board of Health, was also present. E. M. Conroy was toastmaster and the Rev. J. W. Hyslop was the orator of the evening. Short talks were made by Gibson, Calderwood, and Beatty. The banquet was a very enjoyable affair. The election of officers resulted in the choice of E. R. Dunke, President; W. R. Brown, Vice-President; H. C. Strangquist, Secretary-Treasurer; F. K. Bartlett, E. C. Rich, E. B. Mills, W. J. Wright, W. A. Whitlock, and E. M. Conroy, Delegates, and G. C. Moyes, H. W. Nelson, E. Z. Tanner, and L. S. Merrill, Alternates.

Elections recently held in the various county societies outside of Ogden and Salt Lake give the following selections of officers for the several societies for the ensuing year:

Box Elder County—President, R. A. Pearse; Vice-President, E. A. White; Secretary-Treasurer, A. D. Cooley. Delegate: O. D. Kuke. Board of Censors: E. A. White, E. A. Weymuller, L. D. Manhannah.

Cache County—President, P. W. Elisson; Vice-President, W. B. Preston; Secretary-Treasurer, E. Worley. Delegates not yet announced.

Utah County—President, Fred R. Taylor; Vice-President, V. P. Richards; Secretary-Treasurer, Arnold Robinson. Delegates: E. S. Hughes, R. S. Clark, O. Grua, P. M. Kelly. Alternates: J. W. Aird, L. D. Stewart. Board of Censors: L. W. Oakes, B. C. Linebaugh, J. W. Hagen.

President Gibson announces the appointment of the following committees of the State Association:

Scientific Committee—Chairman, Claude Shields; F. K. Bartlett of Ogden, W. L. Rich; Steele, secretary.

Public Policy and Legislation—Chairman, John Z. Brown; Fred Taylor of Provo, E. F. Root, Gibson and Steele.

Public Health and Instruction—W. C. Christophersen, E. M. Neher, R. A. Pearse of Box Elder, H. Jeidel, S. G. Paul.

Officers' Reserve Corps—C. S. Baldwin, chairman; H. P. Kirtley, Roy Wilson.

Conference Committee for Industrial Commission—R. S. Pendleton, chairman; J. Hosmer of Murray, L. N. Ossman.

S. H. Besley has been appointed prison physician. The board of corrections confirmed the appointment of S. H. Besley as state prison physician at a meeting held Thursday afternoon at the state capitol. All the members of the board, except James Ivers, who was absent, voted "aye." Dr. Besley assumed his new duties Friday, succeeding George H. Allen, who resigned a month ago, effective January 1. Doctor Besley is a native of Salt Lake. He was educated in the Salt Lake schools and is a graduate of the University of Utah and of the Northwestern University School of Medicine. He served his

internship in Chicago. Later he became connected with the Holy Cross Hospital. Dr. Besley was recommended for the new position by W. W. Barton, Democratic county chairman.

Willard Christophersen has been continued in his position of city health commissioner of Salt Lake, together with the present personnel of the city's health staff. We feel that it is a move in the right direction to fill such offices as those upon which the public welfare or health may depend with men of proven worth as a sole consideration, rather than to make any such appointment depend upon political preferment.

Beginning the second Wednesday in January, Major S. C. Gurney of the 104th Division Reserve, will hold bi-monthly meetings for the instruction of Medical Reserve Officers, in an advanced course of instruction, which is, in reality, a new first course designed to put the medical army reservists in close touch with the duties and functions of their positions as medical officers of the army. Meetings will be held in the quarters of the U. S. Veterans' Bureau, beginning at 7 o'clock. Men taking these lectures will be given credits in the same degree as those taking the parallel course in writing. As a fellow reserve officer, we would urge all reserve medical officers to attend these meetings and gain the full benefit of Major Gurney's talks.

Election of the Holy Cross Hospital Clinical Association resulted in the choice of Fred Petersen, chairman; R. C. Pendleton, secretary-treasurer.

The Wasatch Academy resumed sessions January 7, after the holiday recess. Meetings will be held each Thursday night from now until the end of April.

In accord with the instructions adopted at the last annual session of the State Association, the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, John Z. Brown, chairman, interviewed the senior Senator from Utah, Reed Smoot, during his last visit to the city, in regard to a reduction of the Harrison Act annual fee of \$3 applying to physicians and dentists, also as to the possibility of gaining an income tax reduction for physicians as applying to expenses occurred in attending medical conventions and post-graduate work.

Senator Smoot favored the return of the narcotic tax to the original \$1 which existed prior to the war increase, but was very dubious about the possibility of obtaining any leeway as applying to educational expense and income taxation. He thought it possible that some such exemption might be given to physicians of limited income—say up to \$2500 per year. He promised to confer with Secretary Mellon upon his return to Washington, with a view of obtaining any action which might be gained. That he has kept his promise is evidenced by the following letter just received by Doctor Brown:

January 12, 1926.

Dear Dr. Brown:

I am in receipt of your note of January 6, 1926, in which you enclose copies of letters, one to Dr. William C. Woodward, Chicago, Ill., a letter from Dr. Earl C. Sage to Dr. S. G. Kahn, and a letter to Dr. Earl C. Sage, Omaha, Neb., signed by yourself.

Answering your note will state that the Senate Finance Committee today approved of the reduction of the narcotic tax from \$3 to \$1, but no final action was taken upon permitting physicians to deduct from their income tax reports the expense they have to meet in attending medical conventions and undertaking post-graduate work.

I brought up the question of allowing the deduction to physicians, whose income does not exceed \$2500 per year. A number of the committee desired time to think over the proposition, and so the question of allowing the exemption held over for tomorrow or the next day.

With very best wishes, I remain,

Yours truly,

(Signed) REED SMOOT.

Salt Lake County Medical Society, December 14, 1925 (reported by M. M. Critchlow, secretary)—The annual meeting of the Salt Lake County Medical Society

was held this date with President John Z. Brown. Seventy-five members and two visitors were present.

A resolution passed by the Chicago Medical Society was read. F. E. Steele moved that the resolution with certain substitutions be adopted by the Salt Lake County Medical Society, the resolution to read as follows:

"Whereas, The American Public Health Association at its annual meeting in St. Louis, in October, 1925, listened to an address by one of its members, favoring a new doctor in each community where a health officer is needed, to be known as a Doctor of Public Health, and

"Whereas, Several institutions of learning have introduced courses in public health, whereby a layman as well as a physician, may be instructed and in a comparatively short time qualify as a Doctor of Public Health, (D.P.H.) and be allowed to advise, qualify and practice preventive medicine, and

"Whereas, In all probability a bill to license a so-called D.P.H., will be introduced into the next session of the State Legislature of Utah, and

"Whereas, the Salt Lake County Medical Society believes that all health officials should first be physicians (M.D.), who have the proper knowledge of the science concerned in public health, and that such knowledge cannot be gained by any layman in two or three years, and

"Whereas, Such an arrangement of a layman being a health official, places a double expense on the community, since it is necessary for the community to then procure the service of an M.D., in addition to a layman, and

"Whereas, The state confers on an M.D. the right to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, while the special licensing of a D.P.H. would be special legislation tending to take from an M.D. that right.

"Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Salt Lake County Medical Society believes all positions of trust pertaining to public health in any community should be held by physicians (M.D.), and not by laymen holding D.P.H. licenses, and

"Be It Further Resolved, That the Salt Lake County Medical Society views with displeasure any move on the part of the American Public Health Association, which may express a desire to replace physicians as health officials by laymen with D.P.H. licenses." Seconded and carried.

This resolution discussed and commended by Fred Stauffer. He moved that the Committee on Public Health and Legislation be requested to investigate such organizations in this county and report to the society at an early date. Seconded and carried.

President John Z. Brown addressed the society on the activities of our organization for the past year. He urged co-operation for our own protection and explained certain apparent hostilities of the laity to our profession. His masterly talk was highly applauded.

The following officers were elected for 1926: President, F. H. Raley; Vice-President, W. G. Shulte; Secretary, M. M. Critchlow; Treasurer, Joseph E. Jack. Member of the Board of Censors: John Z. Brown.

Meeting January 11, 1926—Ralph Tandowsky read a paper on "Serologic Studies of Proteinurias," based on experimental work, from which the following conclusions were reached:

"(1) Horse globulin is definitely eliminated by the kidney of human and dog; (2) Intravenous injection apparently results in a more rapid elimination of protein by way of the kidney than other parenteral routes studied by other writers; (3) When administering large doses of serum in disease by the intravenous route, there is no question but that some of the serum proteins are filtered through the kidney; (4) The present study indicated the use of highly concentrated serums in the treatment of disease."

W. G. Schulte, in discussing "Pyelography and Its Complications," reported history, physical and laboratory, and autopsy findings of a case of carcinoma of the pancreas with metastases in the liver and a diffuse nephritis in the left kidney. The patient developed a uremia following bilateral pyelography from which he recovered, succumbing later to the carcinoma.

J. Albert Peterson and Grover R. Bradley were elected to membership.

Nevada State Medical Association

A. J. HOOD, M. D., Elko.....President
HORACE J. BROWN, M. D., Reno.....Secretary and Associate Editor for Nevada

Washoe County Medical Society (reported by John A. Fuller, secretary)—The Washoe County Medical Society held a meeting on January 7, 1926, in the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. building, President Henry Albert presiding.

Doctor Albert, the new president, appointed the following committees for 1926: Public Health—C. E. Piersall, chairman; A. R. DaCosta, M. A. Robison. State hospital visiting staff—Medicine—C. W. West, S. K. Morrison, John Tees. Surgery—A. Parker Lewis, Vinton Muller, Donald MacLean. Eye, ear, nose, throat—D. L. Shaw, J. LaRue Robinson, J. A. Fuller. Anaesthetics—M. A. Robison, W. L. Samuels. Radiology—C. E. Piersall, W. H. Kingsbury. Genito-Urinary—B. H. Caples.

Earl C. Crevaling's application for membership was read, and referred to censors.

Doctor Albert briefly discussed the advisability of holding meetings at the homes of members of the society, and announced that the next meeting would be held at the home of C. E. Piersall.

Thomas W. Bath reported a case and demonstrated the specimen of hematoma of the ovary. Etiology, pathology and symptoms of this unusual condition were discussed by the author, Dalby and Albert. Bath also presented a hydatidiform mole for discussion.

Richard A. Bolt, (Berkeley, California), had for his subject the prevention of simple goitre. He traced the prevalence of this disease as far back as 2000 years ago, in China and India, and gave a brief resume of present endemic centers. The assertion was made that the region east of the Sierra Nevada range was becoming known as an endemic goitre center. The author emphasized the possible harm from too much iodine as a preventive, and the danger of self dosage by the laity. The importance of careful examination of school children and the accurate classification of the types of goitre found by competent physicians was stressed.

In the ensuing discussion, Morrison suggested the danger of iodine treatment after adolescence. J. L. Robinson suggested the importance of cleaning up the noses and throats of goitre patients, and Muller said this was particularly advisable in toxic cases. Walker reported but few cases found among school children in grades below the junior high school, and suggested that more could be accomplished in educating the public, by taking the matter up as a community problem rather than in the school. Upon motion of Bath a vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Bolt for his splendid paper.

Morrison moved that the committee appointed some time ago to investigate local conditions with regard to goitre and formulate a plan of propaganda, report at next meeting. Carried.

Attendance—Members: Morrison, Muller, Riley, Servoss, Lehnars, Blake, Brown, Da Costa, Tees, Piersall, Bath, Walker, Robinson, Dalby, W. H. Hood, Pickard, Caples, Albert, and Fuller.

Visitors: Richard Bolt, Berkeley, California; Dr. Crevaling, Miss Stillwell of the University Extension Bureau.

The Interconvertibility of "Rough" and "Smooth" Bacterial Types—Edwin O. Jordan, Chicago (Journal A. M. A.), asserts that single-cell strains of paratyphoid bacilli of the R and S type can more or less regularly be made to yield cells of the opposite type by appropriate treatment. A non-virulent strain can at will be converted into a virulent, and the virulent strain so produced possesses certain correlated characters, such as agglutinability and colony type formation, which distinguish it from the parent cell.